Making Free legal aid a Fundamental Right

†1461. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make free legal aid a fundamental right;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action, so far, in this regard; and

(c)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which has been enacted keeping in view Article 39 A of the Constitution, seeks to secure operation of a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity and provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

Advocates' Welfare Fund Act

1462. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided that the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 would come into force;

(b) whether its membership would be compulsory for each practising lawyer; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 has already been brought into force with effect from 01.11.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Judgements reserved in various High Courts

1463. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of cases in which judgements are reserved in various High Courts as on 31st October, 2001 for more than one year with names of High Courts and number of judgements pending; and

(b) the date of the longest pending judgement in each High Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per quarterly Statement of work done by the High Court of Judicature received from various High Courts as per enclosed statement (See below), no judgement is pending for more than one year in respect of judgement reserved in any High Court.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of Pending cases for more than one year in various High Courts.

Sl. No	Name of the High Court	More than one year	As on
1	Allahabad	nil	6/2001
2	Andhra Pradesh	nil	6/2001
3	Bombay	nil	12/2000
4	Calcutta	nil	3/2001
5	Delhi	nil	12/2000
6	Gauhati	nil	3/2000
7	Gujarat	nil	9/2001
8	Himachal Pradesh	nil	3/2001
9	Jammu & Kashmir	nil	6/2001
10	Karnataka	nil	6/2001
11	Kerala	nil	6/2001
12	Madhya Pradesh	nil	6/2001
13	Madras	nil	12/2000
14	Orissa	nil	6/2001
15	Patna	nil	6/2001
16	Punjab & Haryana	nil	6/2001
17	Rajasthan	nil	12/2000
18	Sikkim	nil	9/2001
19	Chhattisgarh	newly created High Court	
20	Jharkhand	newly created High Court	
21	Uttaranchal	newly created High Court	